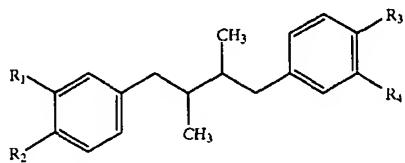


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What is claimed is:

1. A method for suppressing viral growth in a host which consists essentially of administering to the host an effective viral growth suppressing amount of a composition consisting essentially of a compound of the formula:



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wherein R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each selected from the group consisting of HO—, CH₃O— and CH₃(C=O)O—, provided that R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are not each HO—.

5 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said compound is water-soluble.

10 3. The method of claim 1 for suppressing Herpes simplex virus in the host.

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